

# BOTANY

## *Dimming Awe, The Light is Raw*

### ABOUT THIS RECORD

Under the Botany moniker, Spencer Stephenson creates rich psychological and emotional experiences through audio. His music is a thoughtful attempt to convey the non-verbal through his particular mental prism, where sounds have potent symbolism in ways that are all but forgotten in the hermetic modern world. He explains, "Sounds have archetypal connections to things in nature the same way visual symbols do. Low-end might be associated with thunder, or the sound of a mother's heartbeat as heard from inside the womb, or an approaching stampede, or earthquake. Low-end generally indicates something bigger and more powerful than you. Treble sounds indicate something deadly rattling through foliage or something vital like water flowing close by. Reverberation has a connection to the holy and transcendent, it implies spatial largeness. It's fun to hear these symbols coming out of ear-buds in a world where they aren't useful on a daily basis, but are still so subconsciously powerful." Though Stephenson sees these constituent signifiers, he has a holistic vision of music "...functioning as a single pulsating thing, instead of a band with distinct parts," which parallels his idea of the universe as an ever emergent, single conscious entity--a concept he finds spiritually gratifying, and one that's pervasive in his music.

On *Dimming Awe, the Light is Raw*, the 28-year-old producer and composer continues dissolving the borders between his disparate-yet-beloved psych, hip hop, and ambient influences. Album standout "Au Revoir," is a shimmering piece of sampler-psychedelia that bolsters verses by rapper Milo, and gracefully leads into the drum-less hum and crackle of "Birthjays". Matthewdavid—the high-priest of ambient bass himself—lends a rare vocal feature to the uplifting burner "Glow-up" while the electro-inspired "Bad CGI" stitches Bambaataa chants and sci-fi flutters to a shamanic pulse, then morphs into a late-night opiated channel-surfing montage, and the seams rarely appear.

Unlike his previous album *Lava Diviner (Truestory)*, which peaked and valley-ed through a narrative arc, *Dimming Awe* focuses on the artist's ever-unfolding, present state of mind. As a former jazz student, spiritual/free jazz philosophy regarding what he calls "emergent" music has increasingly become a guiding light when he creates. "The more emergent I let my music be when I'm making it, the more I like the result, it feels like a truer reflection. I feel like I am getting closer to doing that with computer-made music," he says. "This album is a document of what I do, not a statement in any explicit way. I feel like I'm moving closer to a jazz underpinning that I've always felt, philosophically more than aesthetically...making music feels more like exhaling as I grow older."

### ADDITIONAL INFO

- Pressed on flamingo pink vinyl. Download includes bonus album *Raw Light II*
- Botany has worked with Father John Misty, Mndsgn, Milo, Open Mike Eagle, Balmorhea, Benoit Pioulard, Heems, and many others.
- Botany performed at Bonnaroo 2016 as part of the Red Bull Music Academy, has played Levitation, CMJ, and SXSW.



### TRACK LIST

1. Sungblood	1:27
2. Raw Light Overture	3:06
3. Au Revoir w/ Milo	2:32
4. Birthjays	2:41
5. Glow-Up w / Matthewdavid	2:41
6. Jotu	2:22
7. All is Rite	1:25
8. Bad CGI	6:13
9. No Translator w/ Milo	3:12
10. You Might Be an Eye	3:46
11. A-Word / Dim	4:05
12. Monthiversary w/ RYAT	6:30

### PRESS QUOTES

"...alternatingly danceable and meditative psychedelia...carefully constructed and satisfying..."

- PITCHFORK

"...ominous, warm and absolutely thunderous...glorious synthesis of dusty hip-hop vibes and cosmic free jazz spirit."

- GORILLA VS. BEAR

"...badass...a pretty epic journey all around."

- FADER

"A rich tapestry of hip-hop, pop and psychedelia... too much shit is labeled 'amazing' these days. That lord-on-high word you reserve for the very best of life, liberally sprinkle it all over Stephenson here... This is the real deal Holyfield."

- TINY MIX TAPES



Release Date <b>JAN 20, 2017</b>	Formats <b>VINYL LP</b>	Packaging <b>LP JACKET</b>	Box Lots <b>LP 10</b>
Catalog Number <b>WV140</b>	Genre <b>ELECTRONIC / INSTRUMENTAL / HIP HOP</b>	Export Restrictions <b>NONE</b>	Return Policy <b>VINYL IS NON-RETURNABLE</b>



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